

Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee Minutes of Monday, April 5, 2004

The Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee met on Monday, April 5, 2004, in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Municipal Government Center, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Members Present

Elizabeth Whiting, Chair
Vice Mayor Mervin Jackson

Peg Coleman
Gabe Kelemen

Town Staff Present

Calvin Grow
Mike Bomgardner
Nick Colonna
Mark McCartney

Citizens present

Craig Lane

Alan Partain

1. *Minutes:* On **motion** by Calvin Grow, **seconded** by Gabe Kelemen, the **minutes of the March 1, 2004 meeting were approved** by unanimous vote.
2. *Public Comment:* Alan Partain, a resident at 219 North King Street addressed the Committee regarding speeding on North King Street, noting that his dog was hit by a car and that, when he signals drivers to “slow down,” he gets the “one-fingered salute.” Mr. Partain indicated particular times of day when speeding is worse than others and that he has been in touch with various Town offices regarding this issue. Liz Whiting asked to accelerate item number four (4), noting that earlier studies had validated speeding at 31 mph, justifying continued processing of traffic calming under the adopted policy. Mike Bomgardner reported that the most recent speed studies validated the speeding problem north of Union Street, N.W., but that speeds south of Union Street, N.W. averaged 28 and 29 mph. The Committee felt that the nature of the entrance into Town from the north supported the earlier conclusions that speed was and will continue to be a problem south of Union Street, N.W. as well as north of it and felt that it was appropriate to support asking the Town Council to approve the \$200.00 add-on penalty for speeding in residential districts pursuant to Va. Code sec. 46.2-878.2, from North Street to the point on North King Street where the speed limit increases to 35 mph. The Committee recommended that the area to be solicited for the 75% support requirement be the lots immediately fronting North King Street (or backing up to, as the case may be with certain Oakcrest Manor subdivision lots) along the stretch proposed to be subject to the enhanced fine. The Committee also recommended 30 days’ posting of signs along the line set out in the traffic calming policy, saying that “This area is recommended for imposition of a \$200.00 add-on penalty for speeding. Call 703-777-2420 for information.”) On **motion** by Gabe Kelemen, **seconded** by Nick Colonna, the Committee unanimously **endorsed recommending imposition of the \$200.00 add-on penalty for speeding in a residential district on North King Street from North Street north to the change from 25 mph to 35 mph.** The motion

passed by unanimous vote of those present. The Committee advised Mr. Partain that the Town Attorney would be reviewing the appropriateness of the area the Committee recommended for solicitation of support. The Committee also indicated that once that issue was settled, that Mr. Partain should work with the Committee to develop the text of a petition to be used to solicit support.

3. *Smart Trailer report:* Mark McCartney reported that the Smart Trailer was set up at Catoctin Circle, N.E. at the vicinity of the Midas Muffler shop, showing an average speed of just under 24 mph, and at Prince Street, N.E. and Edwards Ferry Road, N.E., which showed an average speed of just over 23 mph. (See item number eleven (11.))
4. *North King Street speed studies:* See item number two (2).
5. *Residential Traffic Management Plan update, etc.:* The Committee deferred this item to the May meeting.
6. *Update on Comprehensive Plan schedule:* Nick Colonna reviewed the most recent schedule for updating the Plan, and indicated that July 2004 is the earliest he expects the various committees, boards and commissions of the Town to be engaged.
7. *Speed Studies on Bradfield Drive, S.W.:* Mike Bomgardner reported that studies conducted March 18-19, 2004, in the vicinity of 1107 Bradfield Drive, S.W. revealed average speeds of 28 and 29 mph. Mark McCartney reported that Bradfield Drive, S.W. had been removed from the list for selective enforcement because so few infractions were observed.
8. *Crosswalk Study on Dry Hollow Road, N.E.:* Calvin Grow reported that Loudoun County Public School staff reported that they will install a crosswalk at the entrance to the elementary and middle schools secondarily accessed from Dry Hollow Road. The LCPS will be submitting plans, including lighting plans, for that purpose.
9. *Crosswalks on Catoctin Circle, N.E.:* Calvin Grow reviewed current plans for marking pedestrian crosswalks with the planned construction of traffic mini-circles on Catoctin Circle, N.E. at the intersections of North Street, N.E. and Marshall Street, N.E. Much current design literature has responded to concerns about conflicts between pedestrians and vehicle drivers by moving pedestrian crossings back from the intersection when mini-circles are employed. After reviewing the proposed plans, the Committee agreed with staff that the traffic volume expected at the intersections combined with the relative alignment of the intersection and good lines of sight favored moving the crosswalks closer to the intersection. On **motion** by Nick Colonna, **seconded** by Gabe Kelemen, the Committee unanimously **endorsed**

supporting redesign of the crosswalks for North Street, N.E. and Marshall Street, N.E. with Catoctin Circle, N.E. to be established closer to the existing handicapped ramps.

10. *All-way Stops at Kenneth Place, S.E. and Randi Drive, S.E.:* Mike Bomgardner reviewed the staff report on this request. This is a low-volume intersection that has adequate sight distance in all directions. There have been no accidents in the last three years and average speeds are well below the posted 25 mph (17 and 19 mph). Street lighting in the vicinity of the intersection is adequate. Craig Lane reported that he understood the proponents of the all-way stop wanted to make the street safer for skateboarding—which is not allowed. On **motion** by Nick Colonna, **seconded** by Gabe Kelemen, the Committee unanimously voted to **support the staff recommendation of disapproving all-way stops at Kenneth Place, S.E. and Randi Drive, S.E., but installing a “No Outlet” sign on northbound Kenneth Place, S.E.**
11. *All-way Stops at Edwards Ferry Road, N.E./Prince Street, N.E.:* Mike Bomgardner reported that although this intersection approached the warrants for all-way stop control, controls were not warranted at this time. On **motion** by Calvin Grow, **seconded** by Gabe Kelemen, the Committee unanimously **backed selective enforcement** regarding eastbound traffic from Woodberry Road, N.E. with the traffic enforcement units based in the parking lot of the Church at Edwards Ferry Road, N.E. and Catoctin Circle, N.E. and also **recommended marking the stop bar at the intersection of Edwards Ferry Road, N.E. and Prince Street, N.E. closer to the actual northwest corner.**
12. *Removal of Barricades on Washington Street, N.E., Catoctin Circle, N.E. and Queen Street, N.E.:* The Committee voted to carry this item over to the May meeting to allow staff to evaluate whether interim measures would be compatible with improvements to circulation improvements anticipated by removing the barricades.
13. *Calendar Conflicts:* Calvin Grow noted that the first Monday in June will be a Town Council meeting since it precedes the second Tuesday of the month and that the first Monday in July, the 5th, is a holiday. Although the Committee typically drops back one week in such instances, May 31st also is a holiday. Liz Whiting also noted that the first Monday in September will be Labor Day and that the Committee has met the preceding Monday. Liz Whiting and Calvin Grow are also scheduled to be out of town August 2nd. Tentative plans are to set meetings for Monday, June 28th and Monday, August 30th. The Committee members are requested to bring calendars to the May meeting (May 3rd) to pin down the summer schedule and determine whether to meet August 2nd.

14. *Committee member concerns:* (i) Gabe Kelemen raised concerns noted in the email from Lorraine Hooper regarding pedestrian and sidewalk issues on Edwards Ferry Road, N.E. Gabe Kelemen also asked about Dodona Manor access and landscaping plans. Staff will report back at the May meeting. (ii) Peg Coleman asked when traffic calming improvements scheduled for this fiscal year would be installed and Calvin Grow indicated that they were on the Spring schedule. (iii) Mr. Jackson noted that research of the South King Street widening project revealed that the Town has 10 feet of uncommitted right-of-way in this area and that another 20 feet must be acquired from abutting property owners. (iv) Calvin Grow referred the Committee to Mike Bomgardner's staff report regarding the *all-way stop request for the intersection of Prince Street, N.E. and Blue Ridge Avenue N.E* referred to the Committee by the Town Council. Average speeds on Prince Street, N.E. at this intersection are 21 mph; traffic volumes are low and the location has not had any accidents in the past three years. The Committee felt the real problem is the lack of sidewalks rather than speeding and concurred with the staff recommendation. On **motion** by Calvin Grow, **seconded** by Gabe Kelemen, the Committee unanimously voted **to recommend denial of the all-way stop request but approve posting a "Watch for Children" sign.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, May 3, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. Staff is to contact Liz Whiting if anything arises needing Committee consideration in the interim.